

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 540

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edgar L. Emens of Dayton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Edgar L. Emens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emens was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens was born in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, on October 24, 1938, the son of William Edgar and Anna Lee Harris Emens; and

WHEREAS, he served with valor and distinction as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army and as a member of the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, after an already well-established career in the publishing business, Mr. Emens and his wife, Diane, moved to Dayton in 1979, at which time the couple started the *Rhea County Shopper* in a market that had been completely dominated by *The Dayton Herald* for decades; and

WHEREAS, within a few years, *The Dayton Herald* was still the paper of record, but the *Rhea County Shopper* controlled the advertising; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, the Jones family of Greenville purchased *The Dayton Herald* and, a year later, merged with the *Rhea County News* and the *Rhea County Shopper* to form *The Herald-News*; and

WHEREAS, under Edgar Emens's astute leadership as the publisher, *The Herald-News* transitioned from a weekly paper to twice weekly in 1985 and added *Rhea County Online* in 1998; and

WHEREAS, while other newspapers faced declining sales, Mr. Emens was able to slowly, but steadily, increase sales at *The Herald-News*; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens served the newspaper with acumen and alacrity for twenty-five years until his retirement in 2008, at which time he was named Publisher Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Tennessee Press Association, which he served as the District Director and on various committees; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens graciously dedicated his time and energies to serving three terms as President of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Rhea Economic Tourism Council board, and as a member of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emens was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Dayton; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Charles Harris Emens and William Henry Emens; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of thirty-seven years, Diane Holder Emens; his children, Gregory Lee Emens (Cindy Osborne), Jonathan Matthew Dixson, and Stephanie Diane (John David) Bradford; and his grandchildren, Savannah Lee Emens, Jessi Corinne Emens, and James Hunter Bradford; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emens will be remembered fondly by Judson Emens, Charles Emens, James Rous, Kyle Mitchell, George Thacker, Chip Pendergrass, Bill Hollin, Raymond Walker, Bob Vincent, Eddie Jordan, Mike Keen, Jerry Hendrix, and the management team at Jones Media Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant, publisher, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Edgar L. Emens, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Emens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.